

FIRST RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

P.O. Box 817
Carlisle, MA 01741

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit Number 10
Carlisle, MA 01741

NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXIII No. 8

December 22, 2008



WE ARE LOCATED AT 27 SCHOOL STREET IN CARLISLE CENTER OPPOSITE THE COMMON, JUST OFF ROUTE 225 AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE ONLY ROTARY IN TOWN. A CLASSIC NEW ENGLAND MEETING HOUSE WITH THE TOWN CLOCK IN THE STEEPLE. COME AS YOU ARE. "LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH, THE QUEST FOR TRUTH IS OUR SACRAMENT AND SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER."

Newsletter for December 22, 2008

Church Service and Sunday School: Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour following services.
Church Office: 978-369-5180; Fax no. 978-369-1891, www.uucarlisle.org, frs@uucarlisle.org
Church Mailing Address: PO Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741-0817
Minister: Diane Miller (study) 978-369-0284, Diane_Miller@comcast.net
Office Administrator: Kathy Varney, 978-369-5180
Religious Education Director: Molly Sorrows, 978-371-2217, frs_re@comcast.net
Minister of Music: Marguerite Shaw, 978-501-4220; frsmusic@comcast.net

Minister Emeritus: Dr. Eugene R. Widrick
Parish Committee Co-Chair: Suzanne Whitney Smith, 978-369-0922; Suzanne_w-s@comcast.net
Parish Committee Co-Chair: Lisa Sama, 978-692-6592, LMSama@comcast.net
Collector of Funds: Charlie Davis, 978-371-2844; cdavis@modavi.com
Lay Minister: Sally Hayen, 978-369-7591
Membership Contact: Sue Kirk, 978-371-0176
Coffee Committee: Gio DiNicola, Anne Ketchen, Richard Ketchen, Tom Rourk, Suzanne Whitney Smith, Cindy Jaquith
Union Hall Coffee House: Dian Cuccinello 978-287-5745, dianfrancesca@comcast.net

Over the River and Through the Wood...

Holidays bring thoughts of home. In 1844, Lydia Maria Child, an abolitionist and a Unitarian, wrote a poem that captured her memories of visiting her grandparents' home.

*Over the river, and through the wood,
To Grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh
through the white and drifted snow.
Over the river, and through the wood -
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes and bites the nose
As over the ground we go.*

The actual house, in Medford, Massachusetts, by the Mystic River, was restored by Tufts University and stands today, minus the surrounding wood and barnyard.

I remember a Christmas at my Grandparents' farm in northern Minnesota, bundled up with my family for a horse-drawn sleigh ride, harness bells jingling. We went merrily along over white and drifted snow, through lovely birch woods, the snow sparkling and crystalline. Grandpa held the reins of horses he had farmed with for years, theirs a special bond of easy communication and teamwork. My older siblings sang Lydia Maria Child's poem describing her childhood memory from the prior century. It was an anachronism even then. Some of the antique bells fell off into

the snow on that outing, and were lost. Soon my grandparents moved to town, and all the rides together after that were by car.

Holidays are full of nostalgia about home – typically a home of our past, a home we are far away from, a home we romanticize or idealize. "I'll be home for Christmas," the song begins, and ends: "If only in my heart." My iconic memory of the family farm is a place I actually never lived, yet a place I loved. Home is a feeling and connection -- an intentional family, love, the holy, or a special bond. May this be a season of feeling at home on Earth, of knowing the joy of wonder and awe, of connecting with others near and far. May you find blessings aplenty in this season, and may you find your way closer to home in your heart.

-Diane

Church office hours will be irregular from December 25 through January 2. Email and phone messages are checked daily. Please leave a message or email and I will get back to you. -Kathy Varney, church office

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday, December 28th

“Waffles and Wisdom” Rev. Diane Miller
An informal gathering in Union Hall to serve up waffles and share favorite holiday stories and poems.

Sunday, January 4

“Expecting A Different Result” Rev. Miller
A sermon on the challenges of change, spiritual, personal and political. Special music, Kadar Qian.

Sunday, January 11

“Universalism, Revisited” Rev. Miller
Preaching “*hope, not hell*” so long we’ve forgotten what an important message it is. Special Music by the Symmes family.

Sunday, January 18

Music and Worship Committee.
Roger Goulet, lay preacher

Inside this issue:

<i>Children and Youth</i>	4
<i>Christmas Dinner at FRS</i>	4
<i>Union Hall Coffeehouse</i>	5
<i>Coffee Committee</i>	5
<i>UU Happenings</i>	6
<i>Staff and Office Hours</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	7

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

3:00pm A Family Service For All Ages. The Christmas story with lessons and carols, designed to be a comfortable level of informality for families with young children. Led by Rev. Diane Miller with Janice Saul accompanying carols and several children and youth taking part.

5:00pm The Christmas Story in Lessons and Carols. This service begins with an extended prelude of concert music. Scripture readings, congregational carols, and reflections on the season will be lead by Rev. Diane Miller with Margaret Darling and The Choir. A special offering is designated by the Social Action Committee.

Following the 5:00pm service people are welcome to join in caroling on the common.

Note: There will not be a service at 11:00pm this year.

Carlisle Neighbor Fund: A fund for fuel assistance, food or other emergency needs has been set up in each of Carlisle’s three churches by anonymous donors to assist residents of Carlisle. The Social Action Committee has decided that this fund will be the recipient of our Christmas Eve offerings. Checks should be written to FRS (you may put Carlisle Neighbor Fund in the memo line).

You can see more about the fund on the Bulletin Board in Union Hall, or look at the Mosquito article by Bonnie Greer, December 12 or the Forum column by Diane Miller, December 19. If you know of anyone who might be interested, have them contact Rev. Diane Miller.

CHURCH CALENDAR

December 24	3:00pm	A Family Service for All Ages
	5:00pm	The Christmas Story in Lessons and Carols
December 25	4:00pm	Christmas Dinner in Union Hall
January 3, 2009	7:00pm	Mens Group in Union Hall.
January 4	6:00pm	OWL meets in Union Hall
January 6	7:30pm	Music and Worship Committee conference room
January 6	7:30pm	All Church Calendar Planning Meeting in Union Hall
January 7	7:30pm	Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary
January 8	9:00am	Staff meeting in conference room
January 8	7:00pm	Membership Committee meeting in conference room
January 8	8:00pm	Cambridge Society for Early Music Concert
January 11	11:30am	Church Council at the parsonage
January 11	6:00pm	OWL meeting in Union Hall
January 12	7:00pm	Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting conference room
January 13	11:00pm	Blanket making with junior youth/Fenn School

Church Office Hours: The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 8:00am and 2:00pm. The office is closed on Wednesday. Email: frs@uucarlisle.org or phone: 978-369-5180.

Minister: Rev. Diane Miller is available weekdays in the office on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday. Tuesday is her day off and Friday and Saturday are usually blocked out as service preparation time. Call the study at 978-369-0284 to set an appointment or to confirm that the minister is in.

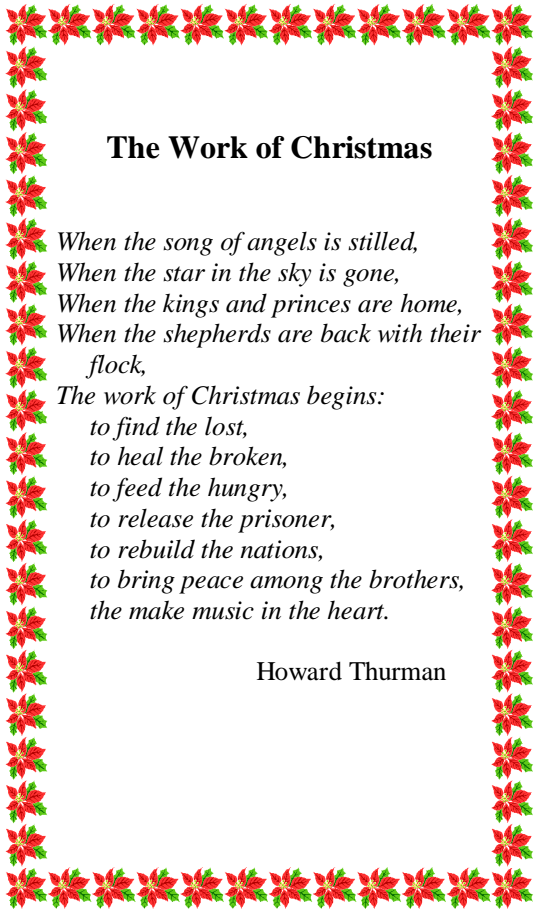
Director of Religious Education: Molly Sorrows, DRE and Youth Advisor, can be reached by email (frs_re@comcast.net) or phone (church, 978-369-5180; home, 978-371-2217).

Minister of Music: Marguerite Shaw is usually available at the church weekdays 10:00 –3:00. Telephone 978-369-5180 or cell 978-501-4220; email frsmusic@comcast.net.

Next Newsletter Deadline is January 5, 2009. If you would like to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list please call or email the church office.

For a complete calendar of meetings and activities here at The First Religious Society please go to the church calendar on the website: <http://www.uucarlisle.org/calendar.html>

All are welcome to attend Parish Committee meetings, except in cases of executive sessions. FRS Committee meetings are open to any interested party. To address a committee on a specific issue please contact the committee chair.



The Work of Christmas

*When the song of angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the brothers,
the make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman

UU HAPPENINGS AROUND US

Balázs Scholar Visit in January: The Rev. Endre Nagy and his wife, Eva, are visiting the Boston area. Endre is the current Balazs Scholar in residence at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. During the semester break he will be visiting the East Coast. You are invited to First Parish in Bedford on Friday, Jan. 23rd for dessert and discussion. The event starts at 7PM. Attendees are encouraged to bring desert. This event follows the highly successful Partner Church potluck hosted by FRS in October, and is an opportunity to learn more about Transylvanian Unitarian churches. Save the date! For further information contact Cathy Cordes @ 781-275-1710.

Tracing the Transcendentalists in Italy: Join First Parish friends and Reverend Jenny Rankin, March 19-29, in tracing the steps of the Transcendentalists – including Margaret Fuller, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Theodore Parker, and others – who visited Italy in the mid-19th century. Contact First Parish in Concord at 978-369-9602.

MUSIC NOTES

We wish Marguerite a speedy recovery and look forward to having her back at the organ and in the choir loft.

Beginning January, Sunday morning choir direction will be done by Alison Reid-Plante.



Janice Saul will play the accompaniment for the choir and all the hymns. The Wednesday night choir rehearsals will be conducted by Janice Saul.



Thank you Margaret Darling, Janice Saul and Alison Reid-Plante for all of your help with the music program during November and December.

CIRCLE DINNER EXTRAVAGANZA



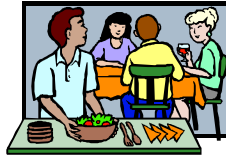
Join us on Saturday, January 31st for our annual Circle Dinner Extravaganza which starts in Union Hall at 5:30 where we'll have appetizers together. After appetizers we'll head out to our hosts' homes for dinner. The hosts provide the main course, and guests bring the salad, bread, wine or dessert. It's a wonderful way to enjoy the company of old friends and meet new ones even during the cold wintry weather. Feel free to invite a neighbor, or someone you've met through a town activity or a colleague from work. The Membership Committee will make sure you are assigned to the same host. It's a great way to meet some new people. Sign-up sheets will be available at Coffee Hour beginning in January. If you'd like to sign-up by phone or email or have any questions, please contact Sue Kirk at 978-371-0176 or sukirk@aol.com.

The First Religious Society in Carlisle is an inclusive community bound together in the Unitarian Universalist tradition of friendship, free inquiry and service to humanity.

We recognize our commonality as spiritual seekers, and welcome and celebrate the participation of all people, without regard to age, race, religious heritage, political opinion, gender identity, sexual or affectional orientation, socio-economic status, disability or ethnicity.

We are committed to continual learning and growth toward affirmation of the enriching diversity of humankind, and to working to create a more just, sustainable and loving world.

Revised Plan for Merry Christmas Day Dinner in Union Hall!



You are invited to a semi-spontaneous, loosely-organized yet elegant candlelight Christmas Dinner in Union Hall, starting at 4:00PM on Christmas. Main course will be provided: turkey, ham, and vegetarian, plus your minister's fabulous dinner rolls. Participants are expected to do three things in advance:

- Let us know – by Tuesday, Dec. 23rd – who is coming for dinner by leaving a message on the minister's church study phone, 978-369-0284. We need a count of adults and children.
- Decide if you will work on set up, or serving, or clean up – choose one
- Bring a dish for the dinner and a donation of \$7 per adult and \$5 per child for basics.

This is open to the community, not just the congregation.

-- Diane Miller

Welcoming All Children and Youth into Our Faith Communities

with Sally Patton

January 3 and 10, 2008 - two consecutive Saturdays (with January 17 reserved as a snow-date) at First Church Unitarian, 19 Foster Street, Littleton, MA 01460

The Clara Barton District invites religious educators, ministers and lay leaders to participate in this workshop to assist, train and educate people in churches as to the importance of ministering to children with special challenges. The two-day training will include: assessment methods, teaching strategies, sensitivity training, hands-on training activities, and discussions concerning pastoral and congregational care. The workshop fee (\$75 for two Saturdays) includes supplemental handouts (in addition to those downloaded), breakfast, and lunch each day. Registration is \$90, \$15 extra, if you would like a copy of Sally's book "Welcoming Children with Special Needs: A Guidebook for Faith Communities." Full details at www.cbd.uua.org, <http://www.cbd.uua.org/>.

Deborah Levering, Clara Barton District Program Consultant
978-392-6700 (district office)
978-456-1299 (home office)
978-621-4525 (cell)
dlevering@uua.org

District Staff services are made possible by generous Fair Share support of the Clara Barton District and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

CARLISLE HAPPENINGS

HELLLLLLPPPPP...The Coffee Committee needs your help....yes, YOU!

No one has signed up to help with coffee hour for the month of January. Please consider having a committee you serve on at FRS sign up for a Sunday or get together with a friend, neighbor, pew mate or someone you just met, to help set up, cater and clean up over the next 6 weeks. -Thanks from the Coffee Committee

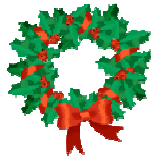


Luminescent Orchestrïi – Live and on Fire

January 17, 2009: "The balancing of frenzy and finesse is evidently a trademark Luminescent Orchestrïi approach, displayed to its utmost in the insanely frenetic dance tunes... The three violins flirt willfully with a cacophony teasingly offset by elegant classical flourishes, swirling and eddy above the rhythm section's bruisingly aggressive but sharply-aimed attack." - THE SCOTSMAN (Edinburgh, Scotland) Tickets \$20 Children 13 & under \$10 See you there! Go to www.unionhallcoffeehouse.com or call Dian at 978-287-5745 for more information on additional shows.

Greens Sale Thank You: I

enjoyed working with all of you. Each year more and more become involved in workshops and other work. As a result, our Greens Sale was as successful as ever. Folks seem to love our hand made decorations and all our vendors. The café is popular place for lunch with friends and photos with Santa are a favorite of the kids. A big "Thank You" to all who helped out and shopped at our sale. We will have a big celebration pot luck dinner at my home this spring. Merry Christmas!



-Janice Kissinger

Hospitality and Food Safety: At FRS we extend hospitality every week of the year with coffee hours, committee gatherings, pot luck suppers, coffee house and other special events. It is important that we remember the need to be aware of and follow safe food handling practices while extending this hospitality. Many of our members and guests have food allergies, nuts being one of the most frightening, so it is important if your recipe contains nuts, nut oils etc. that you have a note of that with your dish so friends can have some safely. Maintaining proper food temperatures for chicken and other foods is critical and of course care with regard to foreign matter in food and hand washing are essential. Thank you all for your wonderful cooking, shared hospitality and care. -The Parish Committee